

## **Autism Committee Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2009**

Present: ABXIII Board Members Robbin Kulek, Nancy Macklem, Sara Fraunces; Dr. Christiana Silva, SD Center for Counseling; Laura Sylvester; SonRise Program/parent; Tina Waters, CCC Kids; Sabrina Daneshvar, Autism Therapies; Audrey & George McFadden, grandparents; Shelly VanBrabant, parent; Cherri Cary, SDASA; Wendy Smith, HGH/parent; Lois Knolton, SDRC Board Member.

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

A motion to approve the June 12, 2009 minutes was made by Sara Fraunces and a second was made by Sabrina Daneshvar. The minutes were approved.

Dr. Christiana Silva, SD Center for Counseling, gave a presentation about CARES, an adult social skills group for individuals with autism aged 18 to 25. This appears to be the only program of its kind for adults in San Diego County. The program consists of bi-weekly outings and social skills meetings. Currently participants are charged a nominal rate of \$10/session while CARES seeks additional funding support (they do not receive any Regional Center or private insurance funding). To date CARES has been well-attended and well-received by adults with autism and their families. Off-shoot socializing among classmates has developed. Cherri Cary requested Dr. Silva make a presentation to the East County ASA group in September.

Parent Laura Sylvester gave a presentation on her experience with the SonRise Program of the Autism Treatment Center of America. Three Regional Centers in California are providing funding for this at-home, parent-driven program. SonRise follows a particular therapy modality founded on five stages of program in four key categories: Eye Contact, Communication, Interactive Attention Span and Flexibility. Additional information is available at [autismtreatmentcenter.org](http://autismtreatmentcenter.org) or Laura can be contacted at [laura@elliotsroom.com](mailto:laura@elliotsroom.com).

Tina Waters, Executive Director of CCC Kids provided an update on the POST video project as additional filming recently took place at CCC kids. Other committee members contributed to the autism training video for law enforcement/first responders. Although watching this video is not currently mandatory the committee is hopeful it will become so in the future.

Chairperson Robbin Kulek provided a CAPS Crisis Center Update – Robbin Kulek, Lori Kay and Michael Roulston, SDRC met with the Director of CAPS, Dr. Rich in early July. Dr. Rich gave an overview of the CAPS program and discussed the plan to move into a temporary facility at Paradise Hospital in National City. This move is schedule for sometime in September. The long range plan is for CAPS to be located at Children's Hospital (in approximately 4 to 5 years).

At the next committee meeting there will be an agenda item to discuss how this committee can assist the CAPS management team with the following items:

- Making recommendations for the purchase of temporary sensory equipment
- Parent resource list
- Develop an intake form for children with Autism

Budget Cuts - Committee discussed fears and rumors about Regional Center budget cuts and their effects on families with children with developmental disabilities. Committee also discussed classification/coding of certain programs and how that might affect program cuts. It was suggested that service programs that might be cut attend the next ABXIII meeting and speak about the issues during public comment. It was also decided that Robbin would request a meeting with RC staff on behalf of the Autism committee.

**MEETING DATE CHANGE: The next meeting will be held Friday, August 28th at the Mission Valley Library at 12:30.**

*-- end --*

Meeting minutes prepared by Sara Fraunces.